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# N Northern Region News

A Newsletter for Employees and Retirees

ISSUE 4

Fall 2000

## *The Fires of Summer...* **What Comes after?**

Once the historic fires of summer were extinguished, the region was faced with the aftermath: charred land and vegetation and burned structures. With little time to draw breath, staffs immediately plunged into working with communities to devise plans and projects to help restore the land.

While the fires were still burning, President Clinton directed the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to assess the impact of the fires. The requested report was submitted to the President in September.

From that report, the Forest Service developed a National Fire Plan. In the Northern Region, work is proceeding at a fast pace on the plan's key elements.

A lot of energy has been focused on the issue of firefighting resources. Staff have assessed the region's personnel and equipment needs to support community assistance, fuels reduction, and ecosystem restoration and rehabilitation. Nation-wide, the Forest Service will be filling 3,500 firefighter positions to carry out these identified tasks.

Another key emphasis item is rehabilitation and restoration of burned (referred to as "black") areas. R-1 quickly created Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) teams to identify emergency projects for protection of life and property. Many of these projects have been completed. To address long-term restoration needs as opposed to emergency needs, Regions 1 and 4 have come together to compile a list of projects within the burned areas across both regions.

A third key issue identified in the report is fuels reduction on national forests. The region is consulting with state foresters and other local and state entities to determine how best to do that. Integral to those discussions is the identification of prime communities at risk of wildfire and actions that would diminish fire risk.

The Northern Region will compete for funds to implement the National Fire Plan. Some proposals have already been submitted; others will be forwarded to Washington over the next few months.

Important to the Chief and to Congress is to organize quickly and show results for public dollars that have been invested in the projects. We will be accountable for the money and for our commitment to Congress and the public to show that we can accomplish the critical work.

For more information on different aspects of the National Fire Plan and the region's program of work, consult the website [www.fs.fed.us/r1](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1), click on "After the Fires of 2000."



### NEXT ISSUE

will include articles on:

*-What forests are doing in land restoration and rehabilitation.*







*Fish kills were observed at this high severity burned location on Meadow Creek, Bitterroot NF. Photo by Garry Seloske*

by Deborah Richie Oberbillig, natural history writer

On August 28, the Alder Creek Fire raced toward Rock Creek—a revered blue ribbon trout stream east of Missoula. Ranchers reported seeing dead fish in the creeks within the Toston fire south of Helena.

Are fisheries going belly up from the summer's wildland fires? Far from it. Fishery biologists have just one word for native fisheries when it comes to fire—resilient. Even when wildland fires burn hot, the resulting fish kills—like fire intensity—tend to be patchy.

Often, adult cutthroat trout may miss a fire in a home tributary altogether as they mature for a couple of years in main river systems before returning to spawn in the spring. What they find is a stream much richer in insects and aquatic life, thanks to the addition of nature's fertilizers—ash and nutrients from the burned trees that topple into the waters.

While the rosy prediction for native fish appears consistent across the fires in the Northern Rockies, there will be individual differences. A brief look at this year's fires points to the importance of maintaining cold, clear streams and connections between them for migratory fish passage. By connections, biologists refer to the ability of fish to move from stream to stream without blockages like dams, diversions or lack of water. In connected systems, fish can recolonize burned streams as they have for thousands of years.

Mike Jakober, fisheries biologist on the West Fork Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest, counted fish in Laird Creek soon after fire on August 6 swept through the drainage in a 1,000-foot, scorched section. The count tallied only five cutthroat, indicating about a 90 percent fish kill. Further up Laird Creek, the fire had crept across the canyon and even skipped areas of the stream altogether. There, juvenile bull trout and cutthroat appear in normal abundance.

"When stream temperatures get up to about 80 degrees, fish do start to die," Jakober said. However, he pointed out that those temperature rises rarely affect the entire stream and not all aquatic life. "In the charred section of Laird Creek, we turned over rocks and found insects," he said. "We saw a fair number of garter snakes, western toads and spotted frogs."

The message from fish biologists overall? Take a long view. It's tough to see dead fish in fire's aftermath, but as long as fish can freely migrate between streams and the aquatic system is in good shape, you'll soon witness a resurgence.

## Saskatchewan Fire Rangers Aid Butte Boy

The Saskatchewan Fire Rangers left something for a Butte boy that he will remember for a long time. Before their departure from the Middle Fork fire camp near Philipsburg on September 11, the Fire Rangers left \$222 with the camp's medical unit leader, Wanda Parker.

The rangers asked Parker to make sure the funds made it to D.J. Tillo of Butte to help pay for an operation. They learned of the boy's plight from a newspaper article that had been circulated in the fire camp.

In addition to the funds they donated, they left two other gifts for D.J.: a Saskatchewan Fire Management & Forest Protection banner signed by all 41 members, and a provincial flag.

The Fire Rangers work for the Environment and Resource Management Department of the Canadian Province of Saskatchewan. They worked in the United States this summer as part of an international effort to fight the wildfires in the West.



*Saskatchewan Fire Rangers present \$222 to D.J. Tillo. Left to right: Wanda Parker, D.J. Tillo, Bill Swope, and Glen McNitt. Photo by Will Abbott*

D.J. and his family have been involved in a number of fundraisers this summer to help pay for a brain operation that D.J. must undergo to remove a shunt from an earlier surgery. The Tillo family has no medical insurance.

Incident Commander Bill Swope expressed his gratitude for the work done by the Fire Rangers. "These firefighters not only supported our international firefighting efforts as great team members, but they also demonstrated their humanitarian spirit through their generosity," he said.



# Retired Wildlife Biologist Saves the Day

by Steve Slaughter, Ninemile Ranger District Lolo National Forest

A critical collection of a bumper crop of ponderosa pine cones was nearly lost to the wildfire suppression efforts this summer. Lolo National Forest personnel who normally tend to cone collection duties had their hands full fighting a host of lightning-caused wildfires. Contracting personnel, too, were consumed with suppression efforts. And western forests were closed under Level V restrictions.

But miracles do happen. The collection contract was awarded at the eleventh hour. Most importantly, retired wildlife biologist Jerry Deibert returned under a temporary worker services contract to inspect the collections.

In two weeks time, working from dawn to dusk, Jerry oversaw the collection of nearly 300 bushels of cones. This is



Lolo NF reforestation staff. L to R: Mike Abutz, Gary Lynam, Steve Dagger, Jerry Deibert, Steve Slaughter, Sharon Klinkhammer, Bill McCulloch, Bruce Erickson, and Jim Burwasser.

enough seed to cover a seven-year planting program under normal conditions. But it won't last long with the burned area reforestation needs on the Bitterroot and Lolo National Forests.

Thanks Jerry!

# Dam Removal: A Success Story

by Ed Monning, Fortine Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest

Grave Creek is one of the premier fisheries in north west Montana. However, it didn't help the migration of bull trout or westslope cutthroat trout to have a dam across it. The dam, of wood and stone construction, was built in 1923 to provide water to the town of Eureka for irrigation.

After several years of planning, negotiating, cajoling, and partnership building—the dam was finally removed this October. The project was made possible through funds from the Kootenai River Network, the American Fisheries Society, the Glen Lake Irrigation District, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (Future Fisheries and BPA dollars), the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Forest Service.

Following the dam removal, the district and its partners were faced with the challenge of restoring and modifying the headgate. Because the existing dam was approximately 8 feet higher than the streambed elevation, the new channel had to be “stepped” down to the original elevation incrementally through the installation of four rock weirs. The rock weirs were designed to facilitate the passage of instream debris and fish, while creating quality pool habitat for fish.

During the following four weeks, material was removed behind the dam and the rock weirs installed. A 60-foot, self-cleaning screen will be placed in front of the headgate to keep young fish routed downstream and away from the irrigation ditch. Most of the fish that spawn in the Grave Creek drainage spend their adult life in Lake Koocanusa.



Removal (above) and restoration (left) of dam on Grave Creek.

This project was noteworthy in part because of the partnership and level of agreement achieved among the many groups involved. Special recognition goes to Jay Deshazier and Scott Snelson, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Rox Rogers and Tim Bodurtha, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Steve Curtiss, Leonard Peterson, and Doug Benford, Glen Lake Irrigation District; Carolyn Stamy, Kootenai River Network; Kirk Sullivan, Natural Resources Conservation Service; the American Fisheries Society; Sandi Mason, Fortine District; and Bryce Bohn, formerly of the Fortine District. Gary Decker, restoration hydrologist on the Bitterroot National Forest, was instrumental in the design and implementation of this project.

A special note of recognition and thanks must go to Guenter Heinz, wildlife and fisheries biologist on the Fortine District, for his tenacity and optimism that were essential in seeing this project through to implementation.



# North Dakota State Forester Receives Award

*Glenda Fauske, North Dakota Forest Service;  
Glenn Roloff and Charlene Schildwachter,  
R-1 Cooperative Forestry & Forest Health Protection*

On August 24, 2000, North Dakota State Forester Larry Kotchman and his staff received a Certificate of Appreciation from Regional Forester Dale Bosworth.

The award stated, "for your outstanding performance in administering and delivering State and Private Forestry programs in North Dakota, with special recognition for your excellent partnerships, customer service and care of North Dakota's natural resources, as determined by the recent General Program Review."

On accepting the certificate, Larry stated that "this award belongs to the dedicated employees within the North Dakota Forest Service. Their strong support along with the encouragement and involvement of our local, state and federal partners throughout North Dakota has made it all possible."



*(Back row – l to r): Brenda Johnson, Larry Kotchman, Dale Bosworth, Glenda Fauske, and Tom Berg. (Front row – l to r): Jackson Bird and Tom Claeys.*

The presentation was made during the "People in Partnership" forum at which over 125 people attended. North Dakota State University, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and the Regional Office sponsored the forum.

# Pioneer Fire Researcher Honored

*by Dave Turner,  
Helena National Forest*

Nearly 51 years after his death, a memorial to one of the Forest Service's early fire researchers, Harry T. Gisborne, has been established near the historic Mann Gulch Fire site, just off the Missouri River in west central Montana. The memorial consists of a granite obelisk inscribed with Gisborne's name and a small bronze plaque mounted on a nearby large limestone boulder.

Gisborne's life and illustrious Forest Service career came to an abrupt end in November 1949 following the disastrous Mann Gulch fire. He suffered a fatal heart attack while hiking in the Mann Gulch area during an investigation of the cause of the fire. Gisborne unwittingly became the fourteenth victim of a fire that earlier that summer had overtaken and killed 13 Forest Service smokejumpers.

Prior to his death, Harry Gisborne was a pioneer in the young Forest Service's efforts to approach and fight forest fires on a scientific basis. As a pre-eminent fire scientist of his day, Gisborne led his fellow fire researchers in developing tools and equipment to help forest managers understand and, more importantly predict, the conditions leading up to severe and dangerous forest fire seasons.



*Gisborne Memorial.*

In the 1930s, Gisborne's prolific inventiveness produced the "anemohygraph." Described as a remarkable instrument for its day, the anemohygraph measured and recorded potential fire fuel moisture and wind speed, essential elements in predicting wildfire behavior.

The new memorial was developed and established by the Helena National Forest with the support and help of the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station in Ogden, Utah; the Missoula Smokejumpers' Welfare Fund; the Helena Forest Foundation; Western Montana Monument Services, Inc., in Missoula; and the Helena chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen.



# Providing a Journey for Tribal Youth — *camp links resource conservation with cultural traditions*

by Sandi McFarland, Clearwater National Forest

For the past 12 years, the Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce, and Colville (R-6) National Forests have worked with the Nez Perce, Coeur d'Alene, Kalispell, and Kootenai Tribes to sponsor a natural resource camp for tribal youth. This year, they continued their commitment to the project.

The host this summer was the Powell unit of the Lochsa Ranger District, Clearwater National Forest. A total of 16 teen volunteers and 8 camp counselors spent the week of June 19 through 24 blending work experiences and educational sessions with cultural tradition. Some of the work performed during the week included tree thinning, lopping, brushing, planting trees and shrubs along with campground cleanup. Workers also completed grass seeding, complementing road obliteration restoration.

Educational presenters included wildlife biologists, Dan Davis, Clearwater Forest, and Mary Ann High from the Nez Perce National Forest. Steve Armstrong, with the Nez Perce forest, provided an educational presentation on archaeology along with a trip to Packer Meadows to visit the culturally peeled trees.

*Right: Tribal youth lopping a cedar tree on the Lochsa Ranger District.*



Cultural traditions are always an important part of the camp experience. The youth tried their hand throwing the atlatl, a hunting weapon dating back some 7,000 years. They also built a sweathouse and spent evenings singing traditional songs, drumming, sharing legends, enjoying sweat baths and listening to inspirational tribal speakers.

The week included a field trip to Ninemile Ranger Station, the smokejumper base in Missoula, and a visit to Fort Fizzle. They also toured the fish hatchery near Powell Ranger Station where they saw efforts to sustain the salmon migration.

The camp followed its mission to convey a meaningful experience in the protection of our natural resources and, at the same time, reinvigorate tribal youth in the cultural traditions from which they came.

## Lake Receives Award for Weed Control



Left to right: Leonard Lake, range specialist, Nez Perce NF and Carl Crabtree, Idaho County weed supervisor.

by Laura Smith, Nez Perce National Forest

Leonard Lake, a range specialist with the Nez Perce National Forest, was recently honored by the State of Idaho for his efforts in combating noxious weeds.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture presented Leonard with an award on October 18 in Lewiston. He was cited for his "sustained commitment and leadership in developing an effective on-the-ground weed management program in the Salmon River Cooperative Weed Management Area."

Lake has been active in the Idaho Weed Management Association and has also served on various noxious weed advisory boards and committees.



# Creating a Magical Experience

Montana Archaeology Week, held every year in September, is all about respecting and honoring Montana's past. As part of this year's celebration, Becky Timmons, Kootenai National Forest archaeologist, sponsored a symposium September 22-24 that brought a part of that history to life.

The symposium focused on the early trapper era. Her keynote speaker was Jack Nisbet, author of a book on David Thompson, early explorer of the Northwest.

Other speakers and their topics included Carol Ray, "The History of Sophie Morigeau," Dr. Jean Barman, "Fur Traders and Their Families in the Kootenai Region," Becky Timmons, "Sophie Morigeau, the Archaeology of a Trading Post," David Courchane, "Early Explorer and Trapper Jaco Finaly and His Legacy," Mark White, "American and British Fur Trade Companies," Bob Malyevac, "Overview of Fur Trade in Montana: the Inside Scoop" and Wynne Rower-Towers who portrayed one of the few Indian women traders, Sophie Morigeau

Attending the events were 60 people from Montana, Washington, and British Columbia. "Once in a great while, energies come together, creating a magical experience for everyone. This is what happened at this wonderful symposium," said Becky.



*Sophie Morigeau (left in black cloak) was one of few Indian women traders.*

## Timmons Designs Poster

Montana Archaeology Week is an annual event hosted by the Montana Archaeological Society and the Montana Historic Preservation Office. As part of the event, the two organizations release a poster. This year's poster was designed by Becky Timmons, with layout assistance from Patti Johnson, both with the Kootenai National Forest.

The illustration from the poster was inspired by a painting collected by Father Nicholas Point during his journeys throughout the Northwest from 1841-47. Father Point was a Jesuit priest who accompanied Father DeSmet during his travels.

Father Point recorded his experience in his writing and his drawings, which have since been regarded by anthropologists as invaluable in documenting the lifeways of tribal people that he worked with.

Father Point also collected impressions of how Indian people reacted to this encounter with European culture by giving them paper to use for their artwork. The illustration chosen for this year's poster is one of those paintings.



## New curriculum guide:

### "Explorers, Trappers, & Traders—Grades 7-12"

Kootenai National Forest archaeologist Becky Timmons developed this curriculum with the help of teachers and Salish tribal members. The lessons will be used in Lincoln County classes this year and will then be available for wider distribution.

For more information, contact Becky at 406-293-6211.



# Great Partnership Spells Success

## For Education Workshop

**Y**ou could not have had better partners for the conservation education training offered July 24-28 at Timbercrest Girl Scout Camp near Red Lodge, Montana. The workshop was for teachers and resource agency personnel.

Involved were staff from the Beartooth Ranger District, Custer National Forest; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks; Carbon County Montana Schools; and Girl Scouts Treasure Trails Council.

Staffing the workshop were: Dr. Bob Heintz, retired North Dakota State Extension Forester; Dr. Dennis D. Kopp, USDA Extension Office, Washington DC; Rich Furber and Kurt Cunningham, MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP); Gary Grocholski, Custer National Forest volunteer Joe LeFebvre, Red Lodge High School biological science teacher and physical science teacher Tim Warner; Dennis Prewett, Red Lodge Middle School teacher and camp director; Ann Marble and Guynema Terry, Red Lodge Schools music and drama teachers; and Carol Prewett, teacher from Grant, New Mexico.

Encouraged by their success, the group intends to hold the workshop annually. It featured 52 hours of instruction. Three days were focused on five basic units: water, soils, range, critters, and forest.

The highlight of the training was the "Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs" program led by Dave Hagengruber, with MFWP. During a 6-hour float trip down the Stillwater River, the group was shown stops where students could be taught aspects of

using fishing as an alternative to drugs and other negative influences.

Camp director Dennis Prewett offered special praise to the Beartooth district, particularly District Ranger Rand Herzberg and Information Assistant Babette Anderson, for their help and support of the training.

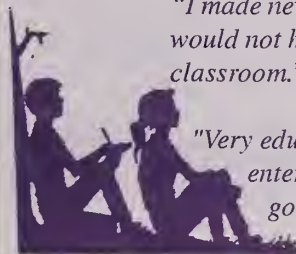
### *Some of the student comments on the workshop:*

*"I never had so much fun."*

*"I am not very outdoorsy so I was really worried about how I would do. Honestly, I have not stopped laughing since I got here. Thanks for an excellent learning experience."*

*"I made new friends and I learned things I would not have learned in a "normal" classroom."*

*"Very educational, enjoyable, entertaining, challenging, and good use of hands-on learning"*



## Fire Squirts Camp Mixes Learning with Fun



by Laura Smith, Nez Perce National Forest

**T**he Fire Squirts Camp, held at the Elk City Ranger Station this summer, attracted 19 kids, from grades 2 through 8. The innovative camp was created, planned and carried out by Jill Wilson, fire prevention technician on the Red River Ranger District.

Jill, who is also a teacher, was assisted by Melanie Graves, another local school teacher, and three members of the Elk City Forest Service fire crew.

Each day focused on a different lesson, which incorporated hands-on activities, games, discussion, and demonstrations. During the discussion on fire behavior, the kids performed a dramatic play about fuels, weather and topography. On another day, the group designed a fire prevention float, finished fire mosaic art, as well as going through a fire safety activity book.

It was a busy week, well worth the investment of time and effort by staff. If you are interested in seeing the lesson plans to develop your own fire squirts camp, please contact Jill Wilson at [nezfire@hotmail.com](mailto:nezfire@hotmail.com)

# COMING: Long-Term Care Insurance

On September 19, President Clinton signed the Long-Term Care Security Act.

Upon signing the legislation, the President stated, "The Long-Term Care Security Act will...enable current and former federal employees, military personnel and all their families to choose from a menu of quality, long-term care insurance options, and purchase their choice at reduced group rates. That means...people will now be able to plan for the future without fear of financial ruin should such care become necessary."

The new law gives the Office of Personnel Management until October 2002 to offer the option. OPM will use this time to develop the program's administrative structure, educate the federal community, and select and negotiate with insurance carriers. Because the government will be negotiating for a large, relatively healthy beneficiary pool, experts expect premiums will be 15 to 20 percent lower than most commercial plans.

For more information on the program, consult the OPM web site at: [www.opm.gov/insure/ltc](http://www.opm.gov/insure/ltc)

## A New Perspective Gained

By Teresa Wenum, Flathead National Forest

This August, 19 teachers, a handful of environmental educators and interested landowners, spent two days under smoky skies learning about northwest Montana forests and the challenges, choices and perspectives involved with managing forested lands. The fires and smoky skies offered a built-in lesson about fire and its influence on decision making to anticipate change on the landscape.

The training captured participant interest with a mixture of classroom and outdoor study. It was organized and sponsored by the Glacier Institute, Flathead National Forest, Flathead Economic Policy Center, Montana Logging Association, and Plum Creek.

Highlights included a visit to the Trumbell Creek Educational Forest and other Stoltz Lumber Company lands, a tour of a Plum Creek Manufacturing plywood plant, hands-on activities for the classroom and ample discussion with foresters, wildlife and fisheries biologists and other resource specialists from the public and private sectors.

The event's success exceeded organizers expectations when participants indicated a change in attitude and willingness to get further involved with forestry issues.

When asked what they liked best about the workshop, one participant wrote, "A new perspective gained." And another, "I hope to continue involvement in the kind of activities and philosophy/issues presented in the workshop."

## Content Analysis Team Reads Thousands of Roadless Comments ...one letter at a time

by Cindy Chojnacky, WO, Office of Communications; and Grace McGrath, NPS

While thousands of Forest Service employees were fighting fires in the West this summer, a hundred or so were working overtime on a very different, short-term, high-workload task. Their mission was to sort, code, and enter over a million and a half public responses on the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (draft EIS). Then they analyzed and summarized the key comments.

After the draft EIS and Proposed Rule were released for public comment May 11, a steady flow of written, faxed, and electronic mail comments made their way to the Salt Lake City office of the Content Analysis Enterprise Team (CAET).

"After the end of the comment period, we had about 40 detailers in Salt Lake City help us code, but many of them ended up sorting mail," recalls Brie Renshaw, CAET's Roadless Project Team Leader. "For the first few days, we couldn't get the mail sorted and logged fast enough for the coders."

The CAET is a unique group of Forest Service employees that specializes in public comment analysis working for a variety of agency and other government units on a contract basis. The Roadless Area Project is just one of several projects for the CAET, but it is definitely the largest the group has tackled since its creation 5 years ago.

At last count, the responses included about 1.2 million form letters and post cards, in addition to approximately 60,000 original letters.

Steve Marshall, team leader for the Roadless Area Project Public Involvement Team praised the CAET by stating, "with the Forest Service receiving well over a million and a half responses on the draft EIS, the CAET demonstrated genuine initiative in expanding operations to deal with this massive amount of comments in a timely manner. This was an extraordinary effort on their part and they came through for us."





# Reunion 2000 Was a Go!



**I**t did happen! A total of 858 people gathered in Missoula September 4-8 to attend the National Reunion of Forest Service Employees—despite threats of cancellation due to the summer fires.

The roster of speakers for opening day included Chief Mike Dombeck, retired Chiefs Max Peterson, Dale Robertson, and Jack Ward Thomas, as well as Regional Forester Dale Bosworth and Lolo



*Some familiar faces: Attendees at the Forest Service Reunion 2000 included from left to right: former Forest Service Chiefs Dale Robertson, Max Peterson and Jack Ward Thomas.*

Forest Supervisor Debbie Austin. The evening banquet, with noted author Stephen Ambrose as keynote speaker, attracted a huge crowd of 852 attendees.

On Wednesday, the focus shifted to the National Museum of Forest Service History. A formal dedication ceremony was held on-site, off Hwy 10, near the Aerial Fire Depot in Missoula. The center of activity was the Bungalow Ranger Station, a log building donated to the museum by the Clearwater National Forest. A crew of volunteers, led by museum president Gary Brown, rehabilitated the building.

Among the speakers was Jack Dinama, the first director of the Job Corps, founded 37 years ago. Appropriately, Trapper Creek Job Corps students planned, prepared and served barbecued ribs for the noon luncheon.

Thursday was tour day. Among the sites visited were the Gates of the Mountains that featured a boat trip on the Missouri River past Mann Gulch. Another trip was to the historic Ninemile Ranger Station where District Ranger Loren Kroenke and his staff hosted a Dutch oven lunch and provided homegrown music to an appreciative crowd.

The Northern Rocky Mountain Retirees Association, with support and assistance from the Northern Region, hosted the reunion. Commented NRMRA president Jim Freeman, "Reunion 2000 was not just a success, it was a *great* success. Guests came for the opportunity for old, dear friends to greet each other once again in the company of, and in the tradition of our Forest Service family. We shared many smiles and I believe a few poignant memories."

## It's About Time...

**T**he National Museum of Forest Service History has a special use permit from the Northern Region for a 36-acre site northwest of Missoula adjacent to the Missoula International Airport. Included within the site development plan is a 100,000 square foot museum building and a 2,000 square foot maintenance building that will serve as a temporary office and museum until the final building is completed. According to Gary Brown, president of the museum's board of directors, "Missoula is the ideal location because of the historical roots of the forest reserves and national forests in the Northern Rocky Mountains of Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. Missoula is within easy driving distance of many of our oldest national forests. A variety of other Forest Service units are also located here, such as the Intermountain Fire Sciences Lab, Missoula Technology & Development Center, Forestry Sciences Lab, and an aerial fire depot."

In short," Gary concludes, "the Forest Service is rooted in Missoula, and there is a reservoir of Forest Service traditions here like nowhere else in the country."

## Retirements

**Kenneth Kern**, civil engineering technician with the Three Rivers Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest, retired August 31, 2000, with 23 years of federal service, 20 of which were with the Forest Service. He had been with the Kootenai forest since 1991.

Previous positions were with the Kootenai National Forest (1972-77); Tongass National Forest (1983-86); and Malheur National Forest (1989-91).

In retirement Ken plans to spend more time with his wife Patricia and catch up on his "Honey do" list. He also wants to fish, hunt, and visit his three children and, as Ken says, "just enjoy life in northwest Montana."

**Bob Meuchel**, with the region's Fire, Aviation and Air staff, retired October 3. Bob began his Forest Service career in 1960 as a firefighter/laborer and later district dispatcher on the Sula Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest.

After graduation from college, Bob worked for the BLM in Coos Bay, Oregon. Other jobs include: silviculturist, Libby Ranger District, and assistant ranger, Fisher River Ranger District, Kootenai National Forest. He worked at the Lolo National Forest as a timber planner, forest planner, Superior district ranger, and program officer. He came to the RO in 1997 as the fire use specialist, then program manager for workforce, safety and training for the Fire, Aviation and Air staff.

During Bob's career he served on Type I and Type II Incident Management Teams as line boss, service chief, operations section chief and incident commander. Since 1996, he has been on Area Command Teams and served as an area commander from 1998 through this year's fire season.



# Personnel Actions

## BITTERROOT NATIONAL FOREST

### Awards & Promotions

HAFFEY, RONALD, supvy. teacher, Anaconda JCC, QSI  
 HARRIS, ROBERT, supvy. social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, QSI  
 HOGAN, ROBERT, supvy. social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, QSI  
 JOHNS, MICHAEL, supvy. social services assistant, Anaconda JCC, QSI  
 LEITH, JEAN, administrative officer, Anaconda JCC, QSI  
 BREWER, TAMI, forester, Stevi RD, temp. promotion, public affairs spec., SO  
 BLAHNIK, BRUCE, forestry technician, Stevi RD, temp. promotion, supvy. forestry technician, Stevi RD  
 CAIRNS, CASS, information assistant, SO, temp. promotion, SO  
 CASTOR, SARAH, office automation, SO, promotion, SO  
 CHRISTIANSON, NAN, district ranger, Stevi RD, temp. promotion, deputy forest supervisor, SO  
 DEMOSS, DOUG, forestry technician, Darby RD, temp. promotion, supvy. forestry technician, Darby RD  
 FLOCH, RICK, supvy. forester, Darby RD, temp. promotion, deputy district ranger, Darby RD  
 LOESCH, ELLEN, office automation clerk, Stevi RD, temp. promotion, personnel clerk, SO  
 MCKEE, JOHN, forestry technician, Stevi RD, temp. promotion, supvy. forestry technician, West Fork RD  
 MILBURN, AMANDA, student trainee forestry, promotion, Sula RD  
 MIRAMONTEZ, ROB, forestry technician, Darby RD, temp. promotion, supvy. forestry technician, Darby RD  
 ORMISTON, JOHN, wildlife biologist, Sula RD, promotion, SO  
 THEISSEN, JEFF, Trapper JCC social services assistant, promotion, Trapper JCC  
 WINDHORST, BRUCE, supvy. forestry technician, temp. promotion, Stevi RD  
 WOFFORD, PRENTIS, supvy. teacher, Trapper JCC, promotion, principal, Trapper JCC

### New Employees

BRICKER, BRENDA, nurse, Anaconda JCC  
 EUBANKS, JULIE, nurse, Anaconda JCC  
 FERGUSON, NONA, social services assistant, Trapper JCC  
 IVERSON, JANET, nurse, Trapper JCC  
 JONES, SUSAN, nurse, Trapper JCC  
 LANN, LOIS, social services aid, Trapper JCC  
 MOUA, CHIA, stud trainee conversion to career-conditional, personnel management specialist, SO  
 MYERS, DANYA, stud trainee conversion to career-conditional, forester, Darby RD  
 PFAU, DALE, lead forestry technician, Darby RD  
 ROBERTS, DALE, cook, Anaconda JCC  
 ROMERO, DAVID, stud trainee conversion to career, wildlife biologist, Sula RD

### Reassignments & Transfers

DEVINE, DIANE, personnel clerk, SO, reassignment, procurement clerk, BLM  
 LEVERTON, JIM, forestry technician, Darby RD, reassignment, forestry technician, SO  
 PARRIE, TRAUTE, civil engineer, Medicine Bow NF, reassignment, civil engineer, SO

### Resignations

KOPEL, DAVE, cook, Anaconda JCC  
 LAPLANTE, ROBERT, forestry technician, Darby RD

## CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

### Awards & Promotions

BOBB, BOBBI, personnel management specialist, SO, promotion  
 DODSON, DONNA, procurement assistant, SO, temporary promotion  
 HARBAUGH, ROBIN, personnel assistant, SO, promotion  
 HARLOW, DIANE, business management assistant, Powell RD, temporary promotion  
 JONES, JASON, supervisory forestry technician, North Fork RD, promotion  
 MITCHELL, KAREN, budget-accounting officer, SO, temporary promotion  
 MORIN, ROBERTA, realty specialist, SO, promotion  
 SMITH, CAROL, grants-agreement specialist, SO, temporary promotion

### New Employees

RICHARDSON, JEAN, personnel clerk, IPNF to Clearwater NF  
 WORTH, PAT, personnel clerk, Kootenai NF to Clearwater NF

### Reassignments & Transfers

BRADBURY, CHRISTINA, student trainee public affairs, SO, conv to excepted appt  
 DALTON, FAYE, systems accountant, SO, to WO  
 DINES, RODNEY, supervisory forestry technician, North Fork RD to R4, Sawtooth NF  
 HAYS, MICHAEL, botanist, SO to R9, Allegheny NF  
 HECKENLAIBLE, JOE, personnel clerk, Nez Perce NF to Clearwater NF  
 HUBBS, ALLEN, supervisory forestry technician, R4 Payette NF to Clearwater NF  
 HUBBS, TERRI, personnel assistant, R4 Payette NF promotion to Clearwater NF  
 PEMENT, DEBORAH, personnel assistant, R6 Fremont NF Promotion to Clearwater NF  
 RUKLIC, KAREN, business management assistant, Powell RD to R6 Wallowa-Whitman NF  
 RUKLIC, BARRY, supervisory forestry technician, Powell RD to R6 Wallowa-Whitman NF  
 STEINER, RANDY, student trainee land architecture, SO conv to excepted appt  
 TRIBBLE, KENDA, personnel management specialist, SO, reassignment

## DAKOTA PRAIRIE GRASSLANDS

### Awards & Promotions

MANDY ALVINO, computer specialist, Medora RD  
 LARRY CREGGAR, office automation, Medora RD  
 MARK SEXTON, oil development area mgr, Medora RD  
 ROY SWALLING, oil development area mgr, Medora RD  
 GARY RICHTMYER, oil development area mgr, Medora RD  
 CHERYL ENDERUD, oil development area mgr, McKenzie RD  
 ELMER NORDSVEN, oil development area mgr, McKenzie RD  
 SANDRA IRONROAD, student trainee office auto, SO

### New Employees

NATE CARD, law enforcement off, SO  
 DARLA LENZ, botanist, SO  
 KOUNS, JOHN, rangeland mgmt.spec, Sheyenne RD

### Transfers

JOE ALEXANDER, rangeland mgmt. spec, Humboldt-Toiyabe NF  
 TONY ERBA, land management planner, Dixie NF  
 RANDY REICHERT, rangeland management spec, Ashland RD

## FLATHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

### Awards & Promotions

ARMIGER, CHARLES, forestry technician, Spotted Bear RD, promotion  
 ARNOUX, KAAREN, editorial assistant, SO, temporary promotion  
 CARR, DARRELL, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, promotion  
 DAHLGREN, GARY, district ranger, Tally Lake RD, temporary promotion  
 ENSIGN, WILLIAM, supervisory forestry technician, Swan Lake RD, promotion  
 HALL, DEBBIE, contracting trainee, SO, promotion, award  
 HARTJES, LOUIS, forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 JOHNSON, SUSAN recreation technician, Spotted Bear RD, promotion  
 JONES, JEFFREY, interdisciplinary ecologist, SO, promotion  
 LEISINGER, PAMELA, support services specialist, Swan Lake RD, temporary promotion  
 LINSE, PAUL, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 LUHMAN, DALE, forester, SO, temporary promotion  
 OTTO, THOMAS, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 PARADISE, CLIFFORD, contract specialist, SO, temporary promotion  
 REES, DONALD, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, promotion  
 ROWLEY, ALLEN, public affairs specialist, SO, promotion  
 STANLEY, GAIL, forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, promotion  
 STEWART, WILLIAM, northern special agent in charge, NW Montana Zone, promotion  
 VAN EIMEREN, PATRICK, fish biologist, SO, temporary promotion  
 WILLITS, ANTHONY, forestry technician, Swan Lake RD, promotion  
 WIRT, STEVEN, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 YARGER, DAVID, forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, temporary promotion  
 YOUNG, SHARI, business management clerk, SO, promotion

### New Employees

CLOUTIER, KRISTINA, lead forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD  
 HALL, DEBORAH, student trainee, contracting, SO  
 KEMPER, SUSAN, information receptionist, Spotted Bear RD  
 OLSEN, DEBORAH, civil engineer, SO  
 ZEILER, JOSEPH, student trainee, computers, SO

### Reassignments & Transfers

BRADY, STEPHEN, supervisory forester, SO, reassignment  
 HINZMAN, KENNETH, civil engineering technician, SO, reassignment  
 KRAFT, STEPHEN, forestry technician, Tally Lake RD, reassignment  
 MANLEY, DEBORA, district ranger, Spotted Bear RD, reassignment  
 PENNER, STEVEN, forester, Hungry Horse RD, reassignment  
 PUDELKA, JAMES, office automation assistant, Hungry Horse RD, reassignment  
 ROBERTS, WARREN, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD, reassignment  
 SCHOMER (WEAVER), GAYANNE, personnel assistant, SO, reassignment  
 SHARP, JAMES, computer assistant, SO, reassignment

### Retirements

BENNETT, WALTER, supervisory forestry technician, Hungry Horse RD  
 DAVIS, MARTIN, forestry technician, SO  
 FLYNN, CONNIE, budget analyst, SO  
 GRANRUD, KEITH, law enforcement officer, SO

## HELENA NATIONAL FOREST

### Promotions & Awards

VICKI MACLEAN, range tech, Helena RD  
 DIANE JOHNSON, range tech, Townsend RD  
 KEVIN PARKER, range tech, Lincoln RD  
 JONI PACKARD, district ranger, Townsend RD from Tongass NF  
 ROSS WILLIAMS, FMO, Lincoln RD from Fremont NF

### New Employees

KACY OLESKY, personnel clerk, SO  
 SADIE CAMPBELL, info assistant, Lincoln RD  
 BERG, SANDY, office services asst, SO  
 MARGIE IRVINE, personnel asst, SO  
 LINSEY MORTENSEN, office services asst, Helena RD  
 ROBERT MARTINEZ, lead forestry tech, Helena RD  
 DAVE MADDEN, forestry tech, Helena RD  
 SUSAN HERRIN, personnel clerk, SO

### Conversions

SCOTT SCHRENK, wildlife biologist, Lincoln RD

### Reassignments & Transfers

DENNIS MILBURN, fire management planner, effective 10/8/00  
 MAGGIE PITTMAN, deputy, public and governmental relations unit, RO  
 MAGGIE DOHERTY, aviation officer, SO from Lolo



**IDAHO PANHANDLE NATIONAL FORESTS****Awards & Promotion**

HAWDON, LISA, fisheries biologist, St. Maries RD, time limited promotion  
 SMITH, KELLY, forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, time limited promotion  
 JOHNSON, STEPHEN, forester, SO, time limited promotion  
 HAMILTON, MARY ANN, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, time limited promotion  
 CARR, MICKEY, forestry technician, Priest Lake RD, promotion  
 LEWIS, AMBER, civil engineer, SO, progressive promotion  
 KEMPTON, BETTY, information receptionist, CD'A River RD, time limited promotion  
 HOLGUIN, ALBERT, co-op, St. Joe RD, promotion  
 NISHEK, DOUG, forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion  
 GIBBONS, SAMUEL, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, Time limited promotion  
 GUADERRAMA, RENE, co-op, Priest Lake RD, promotion  
 MCPHERSON, WILLIAM, civil engineering technician, Sandpoint RD, time limited promotion  
 LAWS, RORY, forestry technician, Bitterroot NF to CD'A River RD, time limited promotion  
 DORRELL, WADE, budget analyst, SO, progressive promotion  
 ALLARD, MICHAEL, forestry technician, Sandpoint RD, promotion  
 ROPER, BRETT, fisheries biologist, SO to Bonners Ferry RD, promotion  
 MCLAUGHLIN, MARIE, scep, Moscow Lab conv to CDA Nursery  
 SWARTZ, LINDA, botanist, Sandpoint RD to Bonners Ferry RD, career cond.  
 DEKOME, SHANDA, fish biologist, SO, time limited promotion  
 NISHEK, DOUG, forester, Bonners Ferry RD, promotion

**New Employees**

STRANGEOWL, JENNI, co-op fire, Bonners Ferry RD, student forestry tech trainee  
 BRANDT, WILLIAM, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, promotion  
 PALFREY, GLENN, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, promotion

**Transfers & Reassignments**

WANG, DARSAN, IPNF, SO, reassignment  
 KOZEL, STEVEN, fisheries biologist, ICBEMP to Bonners Ferry RD, reassignment  
 MOUSSEAU, MARK, SO to BLM, transfer  
 BROOKS, IRVING, supv. Eng. OP, SO, reassignment

**Retirements & Resignations**

NORDEEN, PATRICK, forestry technician, St. Joe RD, retirement  
 BROXTEN, LORRICA, forestry technician, CD'A River RD, resignation  
 ADAMS, DENNIS, civil engineering technician, CD'A River RD, resignation  
 COLSON, JULIE, forestry technician, Bonners Ferry RD, resignation  
 NOLTE, CHRIS, hydric technician, SO, resignation  
 CURTIS, LARRY, IPNF Nursery, resignation

**KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

ADAMS, PAM, computer assistant, SO, temporary promotion  
 BAIN, JANE, personnel management specialist, SO, to personnel officer, temporary promotion  
 BILLS, MIKE, contracting specialist, SO, temporary promotion  
 CAMM, TODD, forestry technician, Idaho Panhandle NF, to forestry technician, Fortine RD, temporary promotion  
 CASTILLO, DAN, student trainee forester, Cabinet RD, promotion  
 HAINES, KATHY, personnel clerk, SO, promotion  
 HERNANDEZ, NIKIA, forester, Libby RD, promotion  
 HUBBELL, LINDA, forester, Three Rivers RD, to supervisory forester, promotion  
 KUJAWA, GREG, biological scientist, SO, promotion  
 LAMB, FRANK, computer specialist, SO, to WO, temporary promotion  
 LAWRENCE, DANA, information analyst, Cabinet RD, to computer specialist, RO  
 LeFEVER, STEVEN, forestry technician, SO, temporary promotion  
 LINCOLN, MARGARET, landscape architect, SO, to R9 RO, promotion  
 REICHERT, J. CHRIS, forester, Three Rivers RD, to SO, temporary promotion  
 ROBERTSON, JEANNE, contracting specialist, SO, temporary promotion  
 ROSE, DAN, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, temporary promotion  
 RUFFING, BRIAN, lead forestry technician, SO, promotion  
 STEVENSON, JEFF, forestry technician, Three Rivers RD, temporary promotion  
 WIDRIG, BILL, forestry technician, SO, temporary promotion  
 WORTH, PATSY, information receptionist, Cabinet RD, to personnel clerk, Clearwater NF

**New Employees**

NIPP, BRENDA, student trainee technical services, SO

**Reassignments & Transfers**

BUCKMASTER, PAM, information receptionist, Three Rivers RD, to Department of Reclamation, Denver  
 CERNICK, STEWART, maintenance worker, East Zone, to Army Corps of Engineers  
 VALENZUELA, SUSAN, purchasing agent, Libby RD, to Department of Army, Seattle

**Retirements**

JAMES, VICTOR, civil engineering technician, Cabinet RD  
 KERN, KENNETH, civil engineering technician, West Zone  
 LARSON, JOAN, forestry technician, Libby RD  
 McGRATH, JOHN, supervisory civil engineering technician, West Zone  
 PEARSON, MARSHALL, supervisory forester, Rexford RD

**LEWIS & CLARK NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

BOB STOTHART, forestry tech, Jefferson Division Timber  
 JAY FREDERICK, wildlife bio, Kings Hill RD  
 JUDY TAYLOR, BMA, Judith RD  
 MIKE WOFFORD, range tech, Kings Hill RD  
 STEVE SCHALLER, education coord, Interp Center

**New Employees**

NANCY DENNING, info rec, Rocky Mountain RD  
 RAYMOND TETREAU, laborer, Interp Center  
 SANDY MORRIS, archeologist, SO from B-D NF

**Reassignment**

DIANE DARLING, SSS, Interp Center  
 SCOTT HILL, forester, Judith RD from Gila NF

**Transfers**

TERRY KNUPP, recreation management staff spec, RO  
 KEVIN GAPPERT, helicopter manager, BLM, Richfield, Utah  
 TIM BOND, district ranger, Kisatchie RD, Natchitoches, LA

**Resignations**

MAGGIE LONG, accounting tech, SO

**NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST****Awards & Promotions**

ARMSTRONG, STEVE, archeologist, SO, temporary promotion  
 DELIMATA, EUGENE, forester, Red River, temporary promotion  
 DIDIER, RAENETTE, resource specialist, SO, QSI  
 HAWKES, DANNY, law enforcement officer, promotion  
 HERTEL, CHRIS, smokejumper, Grangeville Air Center, temporary promotion  
 HOWARD, GAYLE, hydro technician, SO, promotion  
 KELLY, WILLIAM, smokejumper, Grangeville Air Center, temporary promotion  
 PHILLIPS, SUE, business mgt. Asst., Clearwater RD, temporary promotion  
 RODGERS, FRANKLIN, smokejumper, Grangeville Air Center, temporary promotion  
 SHIELDS, WILLIAM, forester, Salmon River, temporary promotion  
 SORENSEN, DON, rangeland mgt. Specialist, Salmon River, temporary promotion

**New Employees**

COOK, LYNN, office automation clerk, Salmon River

**Reassignments & Transfers**

DEWEY, SARAH, wildlife biologist, SO to Bridger-Teton NF – Blackrock RS  
 ONTHANK, CYNTHIA, office automation clerk, Salmon River RD to Clearwater RD

**Retirements & Resignations**

BRAASCH, SANDRA, range mgt. specialist, Clearwater RD, resignation  
 REEVIS, PAUL, smokejumper, Grangeville Air Center, resignation

## In Memoriam

**Dallas William "Bill" Beaman**, 79, died July 23, following a battle with cancer. A native of Kalispell, Bill began working as a seasonal for the Northern Region during his college days prior to the outbreak of World War II. He joined the U.S. Army during the war, serving as a member of the elite 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division. He received two awards of the Bronze Star for participating in combat operations in the European theatre.

In 1947, he returned to the Forest Service and accepted a permanent appointment on the Palouse Ranger District, St. Joe National Forest. He also worked for the Kaniksu, Gallatin, and Nez Perce National Forests before transferring to the Regional Office in 1963. In the RO, he served as branch chief for Cooperative Forest Protection, State & Private Forestry. He retired from the agency in 1973.

Bill is survived by his wife Mary Jane, and daughters Peggy Olson and Patti Carter, and sons Bill and Michael Beaman.

**Mark Boesch**, 82, passed away October 20 at his home in Hot Springs, Montana. Born in Ohio, he came to Stevensville, Montana, as a young man. He began working as a seasonal for the Bitterroot National Forest in 1946 as a dispatcher. In 1952 he obtained permanent status as a dispatcher for the Darby Ranger District. He resigned in 1957 but returned later as a seasonal in fire control. He obtained career status in 1962 upon his appointment as a fire dispatcher at the West Fork Ranger District. He ended his Forest Service career in 1971 in Milwaukee, where he worked as a press officer for the Eastern Region. In retirement, he was the author of several books, both fiction and nonfiction.

Mark served in the Marines from 1942-46. He fought in the South Pacific theatre where he saw action in the Marshall Islands and participated in the battle to retake Guam. He was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

He is survived by his wife Ellyn and sons Mark and David.

**Samuel S. Evans**, 84, died October 4. He was originally from Preston, Idaho, and served three years in the Army Air Force during World War II. In 1949 he was appointed forester on the Kaniksu National Forest. Later assignments were on the Clearwater National Forest staff and in the Washington Office. In 1962 he came to the R-1 Regional Office in Missoula in charge of the Silviculture Branch.

Sam is survived by his daughters, Debby Orse, Judy Gilliatt and Karen Hunter.



**Andrew Fossum**, 86, of Coeur d'Alene, died February 29, 2000. Fossum began a career with the Forest Service in 1928 and had worked as a look-out and firefighter before becoming crew foreman in 1939. He worked primarily in the IPNF and was appointed to the former USDA's Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine in Spokane in 1947. Fossum served briefly in this position before returning to the Coeur d'Alene as a unit supervisor. He assisted in the blister rust control program and insect and disease control. He retired as a timber sale administrator in 1973 on the Fernan Ranger District, IPNF.

Fossum is survived by his son Jeff.

**John Harper**, 52, died July 24 in Denver, after a long battle with cancer. He was born and raised in Lewistown, Montana. After service in the U.S. Marine Corp, John worked as a smokejumper in Missoula from 1969-84. He also managed the Smokejumper Visitor Center for several years.

John was instrumental in compiling an oral history of smokejumping, conducting countless interviews with pioneer smokejumpers. Because of his love of smokejumping, combined with his intense passion for history, John worked successfully to create a display on smokejumping at the Smithsonian Institution.

John later left the Forest Service to work as a drug and alcohol counselor and as a paralegal in Lewistown.

**Robert "Bob" Henderson, Sr.**, 83, of Darby, Montana, passed away August 19. Born in South Dakota, he lived most of his life in Darby. After service in the U.S. Army in World War II, he began working for the Forest Service in firefighting and forest management. He retired in 1973.

Bob is survived by his wife Dorothy.

**Nita Rodgers**, 59, died August 12 in Missoula. She was employed by Region One Fire Control in 1962 as a temporary. She obtained career status in 1963 as a clerk typist in the Regional Office Business Management staff. Nita was promoted to a clerk position with the Ninemile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest in 1964. She transferred to the Lolo Supervisor's Office in 1968 as supervisor personnel clerk. She left the SO for several years for a position at the Aerial Fire Depot. She later returned to the Personnel Office at the SO where she worked as assistant personnel officer. Nita retired from the Forest Service in 1997.

**William Lavoie**, 98, of Missoula, died September 19. Although it is reported he worked for 30 years in the Northwest for the Forest Service, no information is available on the exact location.

## Regional Training Academy Set for March 19-23

*by MaryAlice Stoner, Fire, Aviation, and Air, RO*

The Northern Region Training Academy (RTA) will be March 19 - 23, 2001, on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. As in the past, most of the courses offered at RTA will be located in the Gallagher Business Building.

Last year's RTA was a big success, with about 900 employees from Regions 1 and 4 attending over 100 courses. RTA is an efficient way to deliver training in the Region, costing about \$25 per student, no matter how many courses are taken.

We're using a new database this year called Otis and Ollie. Employees will be able to access RTA course information and register on-line. Ollie has some registration features that are very helpful. For instance, when a course is full, Ollie automatically creates a waiting list. If an employee withdraws from the course, Ollie automatically adds the next enrollee from the waiting list.

From the comfort of their desk, employees can go to the RTA Homepage, [fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/training/rta](http://fsweb.r1.fs.fed.us/training/rta).

If employees have ideas or suggestions that should be considered for RTA, please contact: MaryAlice Stoner, RO FAA, chairperson, (406) 329-3449, [mstoner@fs.fed.us](mailto:mstoner@fs.fed.us); or Donna Sheehy, RO Engineering, vice-chairperson, (406) 329-3312, [dsheehy@fs.fed.us](mailto:dsheehy@fs.fed.us)

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